## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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it's charter schools or other choice or option alternatives, other states have engaged differently than we have in Nebraska. But I...what I find disturbing is that in 1989, I believe it was, when the Nebraska Legislature adopted option enrollment as policy for the state...and I realize that can change at any time, any policy like that is at the wish of the current Legislature and it can be changed statutorily...this is a backdoor approach, LB 126 is a backdoor approach to get rid of some option enrollment. In fact, option enrollment, as it has impacted the districts, is an argument against Class I schools. I think we need to look at the trends we see in education. have a lot of positive trends in our state. Nebraska educators, I think, are very dedicated. They work hard. I'm relate several of them and I'm reminded often how hard they work. They work hard. I'm related to wish I could... I wish we could pay them more and reward them for their hard work in a manner that is rewarding to them. I wish that we could do that. But the system that we've created over time of making sure that everybody is equal, that every teacher is paid the same, with the exception of time and education, but every teacher is paid the same, with that concept, it's harder to pay teachers more because it becomes so cost prohibitive. Because I honestly believe there are teachers out there who deserve \$100,000 a year, and I know that there are a lot of other folks who feel that way, but our system prevents that from happening. But our trends in education of more homeschoolers every year, and we see homeschool cooperatives coming together as an alternative to public education, and I support homeschooling, but it does concern me a little bit when we take quality students that are typically homeschooled, when we take them out of the public school setting because we do need some And to remove students from the setting, from the balance. public school system, is somewhat troubling to me, but I support that right to homeschooling, by all means. But if we keep taking choices away, as LB 126 seeks to do...because, again, if LB 126 doesn't mandate the closure of schools then we won't experience any savings. The only way we experience savings through LB 126 is to close the building and lay off staff, and lay off staff with the least experience, as we've discovered earlier today. Senator Elaine Stuhr read into the record some correspondence. If she would answer a question or two?